

Franconia to Sluys, and thus the chapter is a valuable contribution to military history at the turn of the medieval and modern ages. If Wilwolt had his compromising episode with 'the lady rich in virtue,' the palsgrave's adventures might almost be described as the Comedy of the Incomplete Amorist. From his early love affair with Charles V's sister Eleanor to his marriage with her Danish niece he was for ever offering hand and heart to princesses who might improve his fortunes. Handsome, athletic, and attractive as he was he never fulfilled the promise of his youth either in war, politics, or even love. The records of the court of Liegnitz and the journeys of Duke Henry in search of loans amount to pure farce, but they give an admirable idea of the coarser side of princely life in Germany, and the duke is but an extreme type of many impoverished German lords, always at their wits' end to maintain a shabby stateliness on resources dwindling or non-existent.

If Mrs. Cust's subject is full of life and interest her workmanship is supremely good. Sound scholarship and delicate humour step hand in hand throughout her pages. While she has the keenest of eyes for the picturesque, she exercises severe self-restraint, and resists the temptation, to which most writers on these centuries succumb, of an excess of pageantry and millinery. Though we are told what clothes the major and minor heroes wear, they are always in strict subordination to the action of the play. The book is one which may be read with equal pleasure by the learned and unlearned, and even the latter should be warned by no means to skip the illustrative notes with which the volume closes. They form a rich storehouse of contemporary customs and beliefs, and bear testimony to the closeness and width of Mrs. Cust's studies. We have in vain tried to think of a useful writer who has not been utilised. A little more might possibly have been made of Aeneas Sylvius, and, as Mrs. Cust travels down so far as Madame d'Aulnoy and Swinburne, she might possibly have gleaned an illustration or two from Montesquieu's notes of travel. Not one of Mrs. Cust's four heroes would ever have asked for drinking water in Germany, but, had he done so, he would have shared the Frenchman's experience.—

Quand, à une auberge ou poste d'Allemagne, vous demandez de l'eau à boire, on vous porte de l'eau bourbeuse pour vous laver les mains. Quand vous faites comprendre que c'est pour boire, soudain l'hôte vient vous dire que cela vous fera du mal, et qu'il vaut mieux que vous buviez du vin ou de la bière. Comme vous persistez on vous apporte un peu, mais très peu, comme pour satisfaire votre opiniâtreté. Dès que vous en buvez tout le village se met à rire.

E. ARMSTRONG.

*Martin Behaim ; His Life and his Globe.* By E. G. RAVENSTEIN.  
(London : G. Philip. 1908.)

THIS is both the latest and the most important contribution to the history of geography, from a writer whose previous work in this and other fields had already won him a world-wide reputation. The subject is one which has engaged Mr. Ravenstein's attention for many years, and he is to be heartily congratulated on the successful completion of a task which has involved no ordinary amount of painstaking research. Its

value is twofold, for not only are we now for the first time presented with a trustworthy representation of the famous Nuremberg globe, made in the year of the discovery of America, but we have in the accompanying memoir the first critical and exhaustive study of the life of its maker, Martin Behaim, or 'of Bohemia.' A comparison of Mr. Ravenstein's work with those of previous writers shows at once the many points on which he has been able to throw new and valuable light. Perhaps no geographical personage of the period has been the subject of so much misconception as Behaim, who has been looked upon, not only as occupying a distinguished place as a cartographer and mathematical geographer, but as almost equally meritorious in the sphere of actual discovery. This has been due less to claims made by the Nuremberger himself than to the ill-judged efforts of writers to enhance the glory of his birthplace by exaggerating the merits of one of its sons. The statements of the earlier biographers have been repeated without due examination in later times, with the result that the character and career of Behaim have become involved in a mist of error. Mr. Ravenstein's investigations have cleared this away, and, if some points may be still disputable, there can be no doubt that the picture he presents is in its main outlines correct.

Although Behaim is not to be held wholly responsible for the undue measure of fame which has been his, there are various statements of his own which are open to suspicion, especially the claim, made in a legend on the globe itself, that its author had been with Diogo Cão on one or other of this navigator's voyages to the Congo and other parts of the south-west coast of Africa. No living writer is better qualified than Mr. Ravenstein to deal with questions connected with the early Portuguese voyages to these coasts, and the verdict reached by him after a full consideration of the evidence will carry weight with all students of the subject. He holds that there is no trustworthy evidence in support of the claim, but that if, as is quite possible, Behaim did take part in a voyage of discovery to west Africa, it was much more probably that of João Affonso d'Aveiro to Benin in 1484-85 than either of Cão's more famous voyages.<sup>1</sup> As regards Behaim's qualifications as a mathematician and cartographer the verdict is equally unfavourable. There is nothing to suggest that Behaim had profited by instruction supposed to have been given him by the astronomer Regiomontanus, or that he had any special qualifications for serving on the 'Junta dos Mathematicos' appointed by King João at Lisbon in 1484 or 1485. Nor does Mr. Ravenstein allow that the Nuremberger exercised any influence on the ideas of Columbus or Magellan, as has been supposed by some. The study of the globe itself likewise shows him to have been anything but an expert cartographer, for he failed to make use of much material that would have been ready to his hand had he cared to avail himself of it.

In spite of all this, the globe still possesses much interest as indicating, however roughly, the current ideas as to the configuration of the earth's

<sup>1</sup> An interesting piece of negative evidence has been supplied by the recent discovery, on the lower Congo, of an inscription recording the arrival of Cão's ships and giving the names of many of his companions. Here there is no hint at Behaim's presence in the expedition.

surface at the date of Columbus' first voyage. Such ideas, as Dr. Ravenstein brings out clearly by the aid of sketch-maps, were based mainly on the authority of Ptolemy and Marco Polo, who between them supplied by far the larger part of the data, at least for the extra-European parts of the world, though the use made of Polo's information was far from intelligent. Some other sources were of course drawn upon. The influence of *portolani*, of which so many already existed at the time, can be traced here and there, as in the delineation of northern Europe, which shows some improvement on Ptolemy's version, and in the Italian forms which occasionally occur. As regards the representation of the western ocean stretching round to the eastern coast of Asia, Mr. Ravenstein hesitates to pronounce whether or not Behaim copied the lost chart of Toscanelli, said to have been used by Columbus, though he thinks it possible that this may have come to his knowledge through Regiomontanus, who is known to have been a friend of Toscanelli. Certain of the sources have hitherto baffled all efforts at discovery. Thus in regard to eastern Asia, inner Africa, and some other regions, there are traces, both in the globe and one or two other contemporary documents, of the influence of a type of map, probably of Italian origin, of which no example is now known. On the other hand, the legendary lore of the period is drawn upon to a considerable extent, e.g. in regard to the 'three holy kings,' the Asiatic Prester John, the martyrdom of St. Thomas, and other subjects referred to in the globe. Mr. Ravenstein supplies an elaborate analysis of, and commentary on, the whole of the data, showing, so far as is possible, the precise sources for each statement. The admirable copy of the original, given in gores, with all the colours correctly reproduced, supplies for the first time a satisfactory and generally accessible basis for its study. The replica made at Jomard's suggestion in 1847, though correct in its general features, was inaccurate in many details, and by careful collation with the original Mr. Ravenstein has been enabled to introduce a number of emendations, which render his reproduction a far nearer approach to the original than any previously produced. The technical work has been done by Mr. Griggs, whose skill in colour lithography is widely known. The enterprise shown by Messrs. Philip in incurring the expense thus involved deserves the warmest praise. E. HEAWOOD.

*The Archbishops of St. Andrews.* By JOHN HERKLESS and ROBERT KERR HANNAY. Vol. II. (Edinburgh: Blackwood. 1909.)

In the notice of the first volume in this Review (vol. xxiii. 564-5), it was pointed out that the aim of the authors was to provide a number of special studies in preparation for a larger work on Scotland and its church in the last generations before the Reformation. Unless the student keeps this in mind, the title of the series is apt to mislead. The present instalment, which embraces the life of only one archbishop, that of Andrew Forman, covering a period of some six years, 1515-21, is not confined to the history of his archiepiscopate or of the church of Scotland while he ruled the see of St. Andrews, but it purports to be a discussion of ecclesiastical and political events in the northern kingdom throughout the whole career of that prelate. The authors make no secret of their